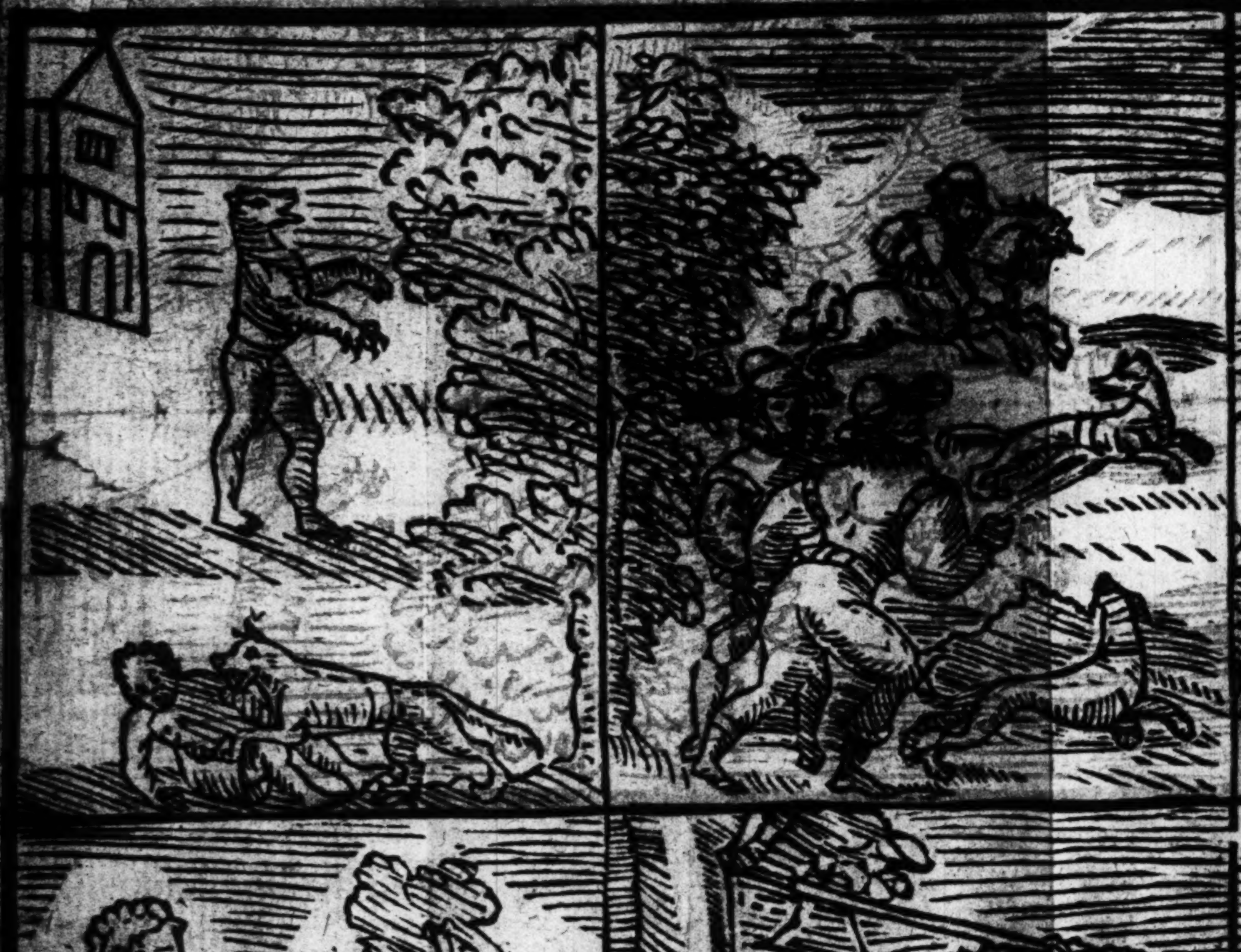

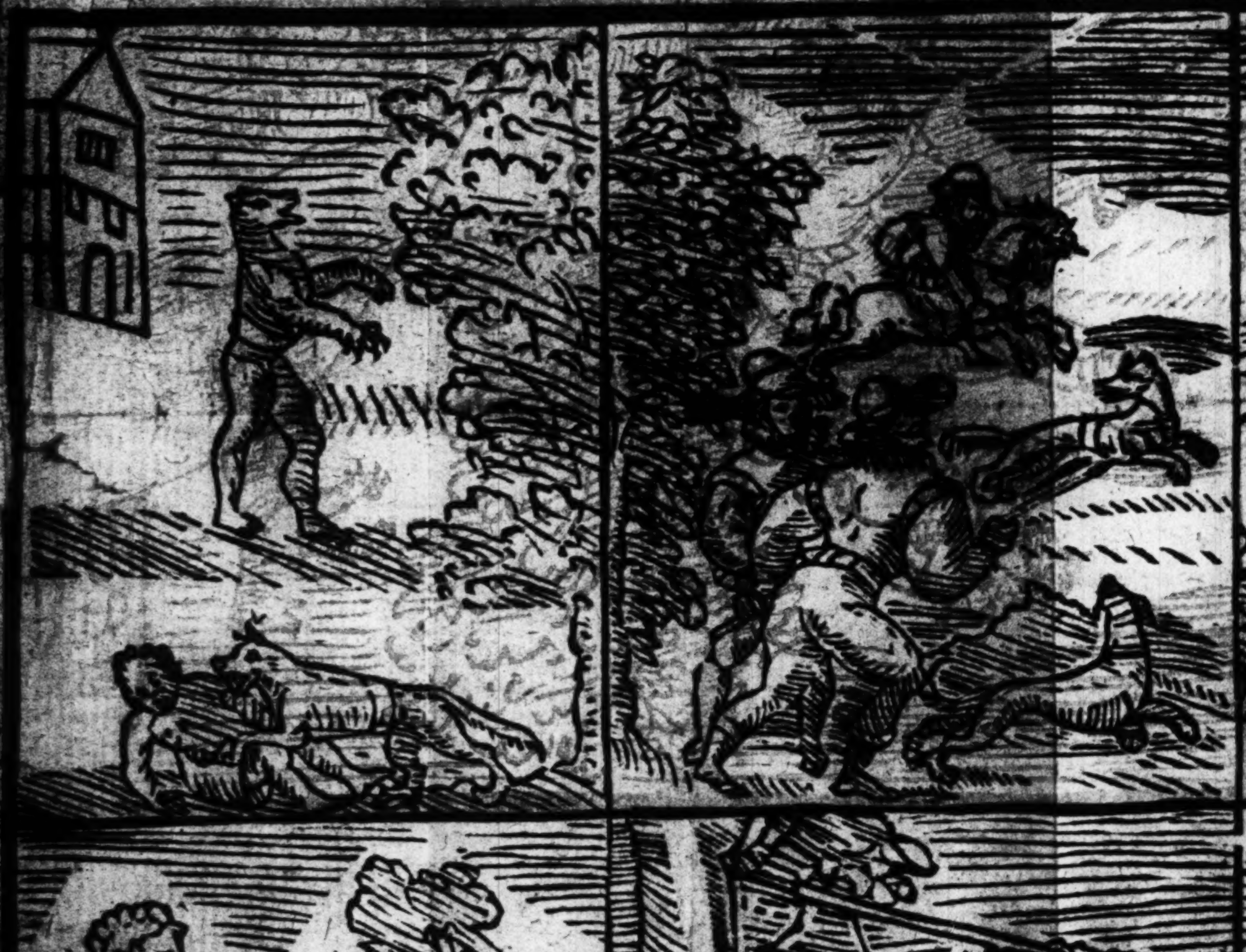

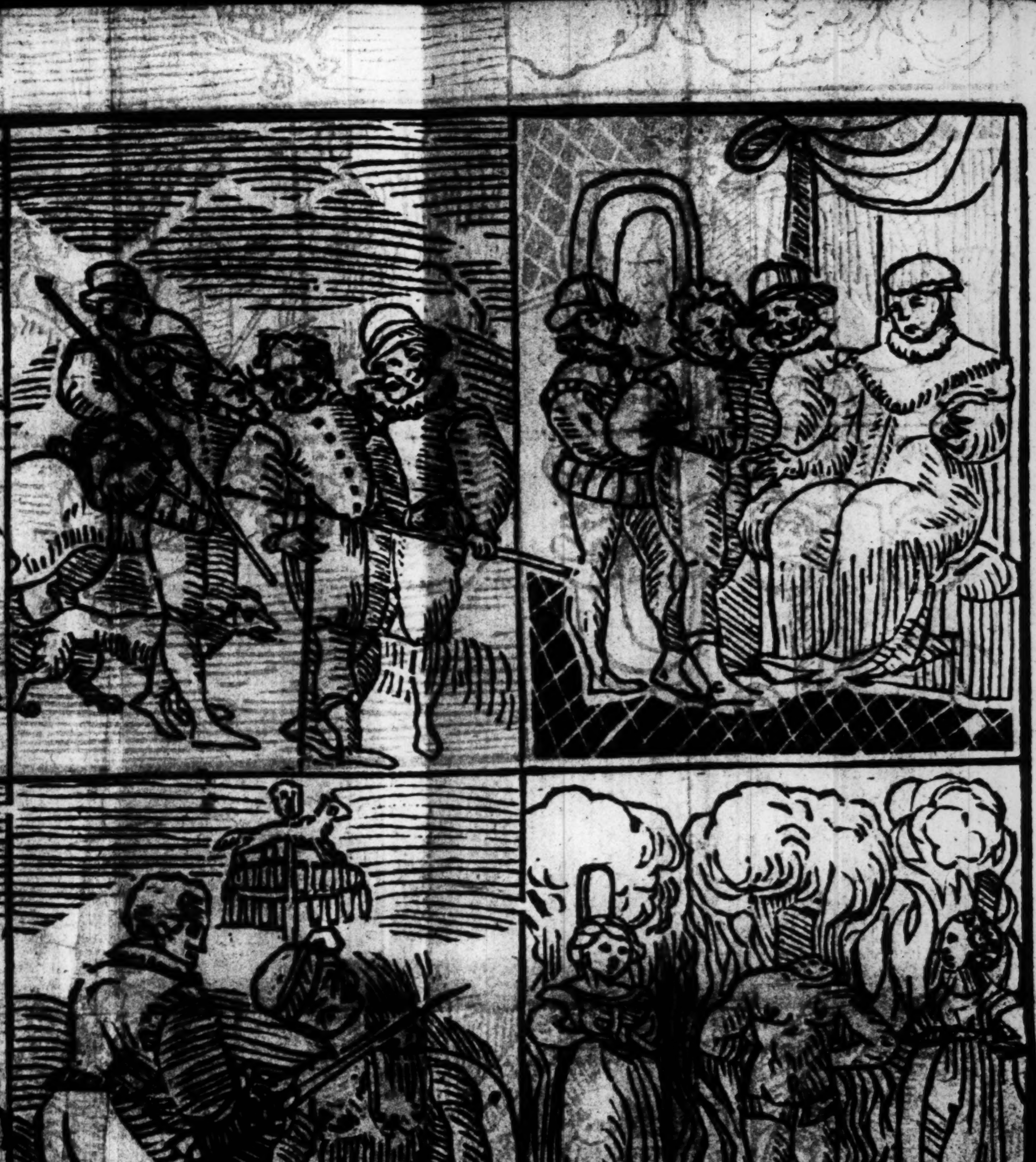

BR
MUSEUM

A true Diſcourſe.

Declaring the damnable life
and death of one Stubbe Peeter, **a moſt**
wicked Sorcerer, who in the likenes of a
Woolfe, committed many murders, continuing this
diueliſh practiſe 25. yeeres, killing and de-
uouring Men, Woomen, and
Children.

Who for the ſame fact was ta-
ken and executed the 31. of October
laſt paſt in the Towne of Bedbur
neer the Cittie of *Collin*
in *Germany.*

Trulye tranſlated out of the high Duch,
according to the Copie printed in
Collin, **brought ouer into** England
by George Bores **ordinary Poſte, the**
xj. **daye of this preſent Moneth of**
Iune 1590. **who did both ſee and**
heare the ſame.

AT LONDON
Printed for Edward Venge, and are to be
ſolde in Fleet-ſtreet *at the ſigne of the*
Vine.

BRITISH MUSEUM

¶ A moſt true Diſcourſe, declaring the life and death of one Stubbe Peeter, being a moſt wicked Sorcerer.

THoſe whome the Lord doth leaue to followe the Imagination of their own hartes, diſpiſing his proffered grace, in the end through the hardnes of hart and contempt of his fatherly mercy, they enter the right path to perdicion and deſtruction of body and ſoule for euer: as in this preſent hiſtorie in perfect ſorte may be ſeene, the ſtrangenes whereof, together with the cruelties committed, and the long time therin continued, may driue many in doubt whether the ſame be truth or no, and the rather for that ſundry falce & fabulous matters haue heretofore paſſed in print, which hath wrought much incredulitie in ẏ harts of all men generally, inſomuch that now a daies fewe thinges doo eſcape be it neuer ſo certain, but that it is embaſed by the tearm of a lye or falce reporte. In the reading of this ſtory, therfore I doo firſt requeſt reformation of opinion, next patience to peruſe it, becauſe it is publiſhed for examples ſake, and laſtly to cenſure thereof as reaſon and wiſdome doth think conuenient, conſidering the ſubtility that Sathan vſeth to work the ſoules deſtruction, and the great matters which the accurſed practiſe of Sorcery doth effect, the fruites whereof is death and deſtruction for euer, and yet in all ages practiſed by the reprobate and wicked of the earth, ſome in one ſort.and ſome in another euen as the Deuill giueth promiſe to performe. But of all other that euer liued, none was comparable vnto this helhound, whoſe tiranny and cruelty did well declare he was of his Father the deuill, who was a murderer from the beginning, whoſe life and death and moſt bloody practiſes the diſcourſe following doth make iuſt reporte.

In the townes of Cperadt and Bedbur neer vnto Collin in high Germany, there was continually brought vp and nouriſhed one Stubbe Peeter, who from his youth was greatly inclined to euill, and the practiſing of wicked Artes euen from twelue yeers of age till twentye, and ſo forwardes till his dying daye, inſomuch that ſurfeiting in the damnable deſire of magick, negromancye, and ſorcery, acquainting him ſelfe with many infernall ſpirites and feendes, inſomuch that forgetting ẏ God that made him, and that Sauiour that ſhed his blood for mans redemption: In the end, careles of ſaluation gaue both ſoule and body to the deuil for euer, for ſmall carnall pleaſure in this life, that he might be famous and ſpoken of on earth, though he loſt heauen thereby. The Deuill who hath a readye eare to liſten to the lewde motions of curſed men, promiſed to giue vnto him whatſoeuer his hart deſired during his mortall life: wherupon this vilde wretch neither deſired riches nor promotion, nor was his fancy ſatiſfied with any externall or outward pleaſure, but hauing a tirannous hart, and a moſt cruell bloody minde, he only requeſted that at his pleſure he might work his mallice on men, women, and children, in the ſhape of ſome beaſt, wherby he might liue without dread or danger of life, and vnknowen to be the executor of any bloody enterpriſe, which he meant to commit: The Deuill who ſawe him a fit inſtrument to perfourm miſcheefe as a wicked feend pleaſed with the deſire of wrong and deſtruction, gaue vnto him a girdle which being put about him, he was ſtraight tranſfourmed into the likenes of a greedy deuouring Woolf, ſtrong and mighty, with eyes great and large, which in the night ſparkeled like vnto brandes of fire, a mouth great and wide, with moſt ſharpe and cruell teeth, A huge body, and mightye pawes: And no ſooner ſhould he put off the ſame girdle, but preſently he ſhould appeere in his former ſhape, according to the proportion of a man, as if he had neuer beene changed.

Stubbe Peeter heerwith was exceedingly well pleaſed, and the ſhape fitted his fancye and agreed beſt with his nature, being inclined to blood and crueltye, therfore ſatiſfied with this ſtrange and diueliſh gifte, for that it was not troubleſome nor great in cariage, but that it might be hidden in a ſmall roome, he proceeded to the execution of ſundry moſt hainous and vilde murders, for if any perſon diſpleaſed him, he would incontinent thirſt for reuenge, and no ſooner ſhould they or any of theirs walke abroad in the feeldes or about the Cittie, but in the ſhape of a Wolfe he would preſentlye incounter them, and neuer reſt till he had pluckt out their throates and teare their ioyntes a ſunder: And after he had gotten a taſte hereof, he tooke ſuch pleaſure and delight in ſhedding of blood, that he would night and day walke the Feeldes, and work extreame cruelties. And ſundry times he would goe through the Streetes of Collin, Bedbur, and Cperadt, in comely habit, and very ciuilly as one well knowen to all the inhabitants therabout, & oftentimes was he ſaluted of thoſe whoſe freendes and children he had butchered, though nothing ſuſpected for the ſame. In theſe places, I ſay, he would walke vp & down, and if he could ſpye either Maide, Wife or childe, that his eyes liked or his hart luſted after, he would waite their iſſuing out of ẏ Cittie or town, if he could by any meanes get them alone, he would in the feeldes rauiſhe them, and after in his Wooluiſh likenes cruelly murder them: yea often it came to paſſe that as he walked abroad in the feeldes, if he chaunſte to ſpye a companye of maydens playing together, or elſe a milking of their Kine, in his Wooluiſhe ſhape he would incontinent runne among them, and while the reſt eſcaped by flight, he would be ſure to laye holde of one, and after his filthy luſt fulfilled, he would murder her preſentlye, beſide, if he had liked or knowne any of them, look who he had a minde vnto, her he would purſue, whether ſhe were before or behinde, and take her from the reſt, for ſuch was his ſwiftnes of foot while he continued a woolf: that he would outrunne the ſwifteſt greyhound in that Countrye: and ſo muche he had practiſed this wickednes, that ẏ whole Prouince was feared by the cruelty of this bloody and deuouring Woolfe. Thus continuing his diueliſhe and damnable deedes within the compas of fewe yeeres, he had murdered thirteene yong Children, and two goodly yong women bigge with Child, tearing the Children out of their wombes, in moſt bloody and ſauedge ſorte, and after eate their hartes panting hotte and rawe, which he accounted dainty morſells & beſt agreeing to his Appetite.

Moreouer he vſed many times to kill Lambes and Kiddes and ſuch like beaſtes, feeding on the ſame moſt vſually raw and bloody, as if he had beene a naturall Woolfe indeed, ſo that all men miſtruſted nothing leſſe then this his diueliſh Sorcerie.

He had at that time liuing a faire yong Damoſell to his Daughter, after whom he alſo luſted moſt vnnaturallye, and cruellye committed moſt wicked inceſte with her, a moſt groce and vilde ſinne, far ſurmounting Adultrye or Fornication, though the leaſt of the three dooth driue the ſoule into hell fier, except hartye repentance, and the great mercy of God. This Daughter of his he begot when he was not altogither ſo wickedlye giuen, who was called by the name of Stubbe Beell, whose beautye and good grace was ſuch as deſerued commendacions of all thoſe that knewe her: And ſuch was his inordinate luſt and filthye deſire toward her, that he begat a Childe by her, dayly vſing her as his Concubine, but as an inſaciate and filthy beaſt, giuen ouer to work euil, with greedines he alſo lay by his owne Siſter, frequenting her company long time euen according as the wickednes of his hart lead him: Moreouer being on a time ſent for to a Goſſip of his there to make merry and good cheere, ere he thence departed he ſo wunne the woman by his faire and flattering ſpeech, and ſo much preuailed, yͭ ere he departed the houſe: he lay by her, and euer after had her companye at his commaund, this woman had to name Katherine Trompin, a woman of tall and comely ſtature of exceeding good fauour and one that was well eſteemed among her neighbours. But his lewde and inordinat luſt being not ſatiſfied with the company of many Concubines, nor his wicked fancye contented with the beauty of any woman, at length the deuill ſent vnto him a wicked ſpirit in the ſimilitude and likenes of a woman, ſo faire of face and comelye of perſonage,

nage, that ſhe reſembled rather ſome heauenly Hellin then any mortall creature, ſo farre her beauty exceeded the choiſeſt ſorte of women, and with her as with his harts delight, he kept company the ſpace of ſeuen yeeres, though in the end ſhe proued and was found indeed no other then a ſhe Deuil, notwithſtanding, this lewd ſinne of lecherye did not any thing aſſwage his cruell and bloody minde, but continuing an inſatiable bloodſucker, ſo great was the ioye he took therin, that he accounted no day ſpent in pleaſure wherin he had not ſhed ſome blood not reſpecting ſo much who he did murder, as how to murder and deſtroy them, as the matter enſuing doth manifeſt, which may ſtand for a ſpeciall note of a cruell and hard hart. For hauing a proper youth to his ſonne, begotten in the flower and ſtrength of his age, the firſte fruite of his bodye, in whome he took ſuch ioye, that he did commonly call him his Hartes eaſe, yet ſo farre his delight in murder exceeded the ioye he took in his only Sonne, that thirſting after his blood, on a time he inticed him into the feldes, and from thence into a Foreſt hard by, where making excuſe to ſtay about the neceſſaries of nature, while the yong man went on forward, incontinent in the ſhape and likenes of a Wolfe he encountred his owne Sonne, and there moſt cruelly ſlewe him, which don, he preſently eat the brains out of his head as a moſt ſauerie and dainty delycious meane to ſtaunch his greedye apetite: the moſt monſtrous act that euer man heard off, for neuer was knowen a wretch from nature ſo far degenerate.

Long time he continued this vile and villanous life, ſometime in the likenes of a Wolfe, ſometime in the habit of a man, ſometime in the Townes and Citties, and ſometimes in the Woods and thickettes to them adioyning, whereas the duche coppye maketh mention, he on a time mette with two men and one woman, whom he greatly deſired to murder, and the better to bring his diueliſh purpoſe to effect, doubting by them to be ouermatched and knowing one of them by name, he vſed this pollicie to bring them to their end. In ſubtill ſorte he conuayed himſelfe far before them in their way and craftely couched out of their ſight, but as ſone as they approched néere the place where he lay, he called one of them by his name, the partye hearing him ſelfe called once or twice by his name, ſuppoſing it was ſome familier friend that in ieſting ſorte ſtood out of his ſight, went from his companye towarde the place from whence the voice procéeded, of purpoſe to ſée who it was, but he was no ſoner entred within the danger of this tranſformed man, but incontinent he was murdered in yͤ place, the reſt of his company ſtaying for him, expecting ſtill his returne, but finding his ſtay ouer long: the other man lefte the woman, and went to loke him, by which means the ſecond man was alſo murdered, the woman then ſéeing neither of both returne againe, in part ſuſpected that ſome euill had fallen vpon them, and therfore with all the power ſhe had, ſhe ſought to ſaue her ſelfe by flight, though it nothing preuailed, for good ſoule ſhe was alſo ſone ouertaken by this light foted Wolfe, whom when he had firſt deflowred, he after moſt cruelly murdered, the men were after found mangled in the wod, but the womans body was neuer after ſeem, for ſhe the caitiffe had moſt rauenouſlye deuoured, whoſe fleſhe he eſteemed both ſweet and dainty in taſte.

Thus this damnable Stubbe Peeter liued the tearme of fiue and twenty yeeres, vnſuſpected to be Author of ſo many cruell and vnnaturall murders, in which time he had deſtroyed and ſpoyled an vnknowen number of Men, Women, and Children, ſheepe, Lambes, and Goates: and other Cattell, for when he could not through the warines of people drawe men, Women, or Children in his danger, then like a cruell and tirannous beaſt he would worke his cruelty on brut beaſts in moſt ſauadge ſort, and did act more miſcheefe and cruelty then would be credible, although high Germany hath been forced to taſte the trueth thereof.

By which meanes the inhabitantes of Collin, Bedbur and Cperadt, ſeeing themſelues ſo greeuouſly endaungered, plagued, and moleſted by this greedy & cruel Woolfe, who wrought continuall harme and miſcheefe, inſomuch that few or none durſt trauell to or from thoſe places without good prouiſion of defence, and all for feare of this deuouring and fierce wolf, for oftentimes the Inhabitants found the Armes & legges of dead Men, Women, and Children, ſcattered up and down the fields to their great griefe and vexation of hart, knowing the ſame to be done by that ſtrange and cruell Woulfe, whome by no meanes they could take or ouercome, ſo that if any man or woman miſt their Childe, they were out of hope euer to ſee it again aliue, miſtruſting ſtraight that the Woulfe had deſtroyed it.

And here is to be noted a moſt ſtrange thing which ſetteth foorth the great power and mercifull prouidence of God to yͤ comfort of eache Chriſtian hart. There were not long agoe certain ſmall Children playing in a Medowe together hard by yͤ towne, where alſo ſome ſtore of kine were feeding, many of them hauing yong calues ſucking upon thē: and ſodainly among theſe Children comes this vilde Woulfe running and caught a prittie fine Girle by the choller, with intent to pull out her throat, but ſuch was yͤ will of God, that he could not pearce the choller of the Childes coate, being high and very well ſtiffened & cloſe claſpt about her neck, and therwithall the ſodaine great crye of the reſt of the children which eſcaped, ſo amazed the cattell feeding by, that being fearfull to be robbed of their young, they altogether came running againſt the Wolfe with ſuch force, that he was preſently compelled to let goe his holde and to run away to eſcape ẏ danger of their hornes, by which meanes the Childe was preſerued from death, and God be thanked remains liuing at this day.

And that this thing is true, Maiſter Tice Arine a Brewer, dwelling at Puddle-wharfe, in London, being a man of that Country borne, and one of good reputation and account, is able to iuſtifie, who is neere kinſman to this Childe, and hath from thence twice receiued Letters conſerning the ſame, and for that the firſte Letter did rather driue him into wondering at the act than yeelding credit therunto, he had ſhortly after at requeſt of his writing another letter ſent him, wherby he was more fully ſatiſfied, and diuers other perſons of great credit in London hath in like ſorte receiued letters from their friends to the like effect.

Likewiſe in the townes of Germany aforeſaid continuall prayer was vſed vnto

God that it would pleaſe him to deliuer them from the danger of this greedy Wolfe.

And although they had practiſed all the meanes that men could deuiſe to take this rauenous beaſt, yet vntill the Lord had determined his fall, they could not in any wiſe preuaile: notwithſtanding they daylye continued their purpoſe, and daylye ſought to intrap him, and for that intent continually maintained great maſtyes and Dogges of much ſtrength to hunt & chaſe the beaſt whereſoeuer they could finde him. In the end it pleaſed God as they were in readines and prouided to meete with him, that they ſhould eſpye him in his woluiſhe likenes, at what time they beſet him round about, and moſte circumſpectlye ſet their Dogges vpon him, in ſuch ſort that there was no meanes to eſcape, at which aduantage they neuer could get him before, but as the Lord deliuered Goliah into ẏ handes of Dauid, ſo was this Wolfe brought in danger of theſe men, who ſeeing as I ſaide before no way to eſcape the imminent danger, being hardly purſued at the heeles preſently he ſlipt his girdle from about him, wherby the ſhape of a Wolfe cleane auoided, and he appeared preſently in his true ſhape & likeneſſe, hauing in his hand a ſtaffe as one walking toward the Cittie, but the hunters whoſe eyes was ſtedfaſtly bent vpon the beaſt, and ſeeing him in the ſame place metamorphoſed contrary to their expectation: it wrought a wonderfull amazement in their mindes, and had it not beene that they knewe the man ſo ſoone as they ſawe him, they had ſurely taken the ſame to haue beene ſome Deuill in a mans likeneſſe, but forasmuch as they knewe him to be an auncient dweller in the Towne, they came vnto him, and talking with him they brought him by communication home to his owne houſe, and finding him to be the man indeede, and no deluſion or phantaſticall motion, they had him incontinent before the Magiſtrates to be examined.

Thus being apprehended, he was ſhortly after put to the racke in the Towne of Bedbur, but fearing the torture, he volluntarilye confeſſed his whole life, and made knowen the villanies which he had committed for the ſpace of xxv. yeares, alſo he cõfeſſed how by ſorcery he procured of the Deuill a Girdle, which beeing put on, he

forthfoorthwith became a Wolfe, which Girdle at his apprehenſion he confeſt he caſt it off in a certaine Vallye, and there left it, which when the Maieſtrates heard, they ſent to the Vallye for it, but at their comming found nothing at al, for it may be ſuppoſed that it was gone to the devil from whence it came, ſo that it was not to be found. For the Devil having brought the wretch to al the ſhame he could, left him to indure the torments which his deedes deſerved.

After he had ſome ſpace beene impriſoned, the magiſtrates found out through due examination of the matter, that his daughter Stubbe Beell and his Goſſip Katherine Trompin, were both acceſſary to divers murders committed, who for the ſame, as alſo for their leaud life otherwiſe committed, was arraigned, and with Stubbe Peeter condempned, and their ſeverall Judgementes pronounced the 28 of October 1589. in this manor, that is to ſaye: Stubbe Peeter as principall malefactor, was judged firſt to have his body laide on a wheele, and with red hotte burning pincers in ten ſeverall places to have the fleſh puld off from the bones, after that, his legges and Armes to bodye with a wooden Axe or Hatchet, afterwards to haue his head ſtruck from his body, then to haue his carkaſſe burnde to Aſhes.

Alſo his Daughter and his Goſſip were iudged to be burned quicke to Aſhes, the ſame time and day with the carkaſſe of the aforeſaid Stubbe Peeter, And on the 31. of the ſame moneth, they ſuffered death accordingly in the town of Bedbur in the preſence of many peeres & princes of Germany.

Thus Gentle Reader haue I ſet down the true diſcourſe of this wicked man Stub Peeter, which I deſire to be a warning to all Sorcerers and Witches, which vnlawfully followe their owne diueliſh imagination to the vtter ruine and deſtruction of their ſoules eternally, from which wicked and damnable practiſe, I beſeech God keepe all good men, and from the crueltye of their wicked hands. Amen.

After the execution, there was by the aduice of the Magiſtrates of the towne of Bedbur a high pole ſet vp and ſtrongly framed, which firſt went through ŷ wheele wheron he was broken, wherevnto alſo it was faſtened, after that a little aboue the Wheele the likenes of a Woulfe was framed in wood, to ſhewe vnto all men the ſhape wherein he executed thoſe cruelties. Ouer that on the top of the ſtake the ſorcerers head it ſelfe was ſet vp, and round about the Wheele there hung as it were ſixteen peeces of wood about a yarde in length which repreſented the ſixteene perſons that was perfectly knowen to be murdered by him. And the ſame ordained to ſtand there for a continuall monument to all inſuing ages, what murders by Stub Peeter was committed, with the order of his Iudgement, as this picture doth more plainelye expreſſe.

Witneſſes that this is true.

Tyſe Artyne.
William *Brewar*.
Adolf Staedt.
George *Bores*.
With diuers others that haue ſeen the ſame.